



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at Catshill Village Hall

THURSDAY 27th October 2022, 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs B McEldowney (Chair), P Masters, J Parry, K Burgess, B Laniosh

In attendance: Clerk – Carol Blake

Apologies – Cllr J Till, Cllr Osman, Cllr P Baker

Members not present: G Blackmoor,

22/10-01 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting

22/10-02 To receive apologies from any Member unable to attend

Cllr Till, Cllr Baker and Cllr Osman sent their apologies.

22/10-03 Open Forum

3.1 Members of the Public

Two members of the Local Police were in attendance and reported on a joint operation they are involved in with Enforcement Dept to tackle the anti-social parking outside schools in the area.

3.2 Worcs County Councillor for the Woodvale Division.

Cllr Webb reported that the solar panel for the VAS sign has been received and will be set up on the Golden Cross Lane sign as the current battery-operated sign is only lasting a couple of weeks. The key for the camera was returned to the Parish and a decision will need to be made as to who will replace the batteries whether it be the Lengthsman or Councillors.

A pedestrian crossing on Barley Mow Lane has been agreed to and now consultation with residents needs to take place.

Cllr Webb reported that if the Parish need extra Christmas lights for next year she will be able to obtain some divisional funding to cover this.

Cllr Webb thanked all who helped to clean up the memorial, there will be artificial plants put in place for the Remembrance Service.

Cllr Webb will update the Council when there is a date set for the removal of the bus shelter on A38.

3.3 Bromsgrove District Councillors for North Catshill, South Catshill and Marlbrook Wards

No update received

3.4 Any other community representative

No update.

22/10-04 Declarations of Interest

None received

22/10-05 To re- open the meeting

Parish Councillors and the Executive Officer may only speak from this point forward

22/10-06 Dispensations

No member had submitted a request for dispensation to any agenda item.

22/10-07 Approval of Minutes of previous council meeting and previous matters arising

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the previous Full Parish Council meeting held 29/09/2022. The Chairman then duly signed the minutes.

22/10-08 Chairman's Report

The Chairman updated members on the various meetings he had attended during the month.

8.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Cllr McEldowney attended a meeting with local churches, Councillor Shirley Webb, Katie Burgess, Catshill Community Builder, and other members of the local community where issues were discussed relating to 'Cost of Living Crisis', provision of warm spaces during winter etc. Local Churches will be finalising further details of 'warm spaces' for vulnerable people to attend over the winter. Rev Simon Gudger, Catshill Baptist Church stated that surveys undertaken recently suggest that warm spaces may need to be marketed in a different more subtle way as people feel embarrassed about needing to go to something labelled as such.

8.2 Christmas Party Event – **It was agreed** that as there are so few councillors and nobody to lead this event that a compromise would be that the Parish Council could consider funding a scaled down Christmas event at the village hall, where light refreshments, with some entertainment could be provided for people who genuinely meet the criteria of either experiencing financial hardship and/or Loneliness. It is possible that this event could come under the umbrella of the '**Warm Spaces**' project, which is currently being coordinated by local churches and other local groups. Cllr McEldowney will speak with the Local Churches and Chris Fabray to see what they think of this idea and will report back at the next meeting

8.3 Christmas Lights Switch On – The Christmas Tree has been ordered and £90.00 was ratified by the Parish Councillors. The delivery date for the tree is to be finalised and the next meeting relating to the event will take place on 1st November

8.4 New Councillors Training – Cllr McEldowney referred new councillors to the Whistle Stop training on Zoom, Clerk to send details again if they want to attend via zoom.

8.5 Update on Fireworks Event – Cllr McEldowney requested volunteers to help on the day and at the event, these will be finalised in the next week.

8.6 Chadsgrove School Grants Requests

- **£500.00 for laptop and portable Wi-Fi hub** – **It was agreed** to fund £500 for this grant request.

- **£1500.00 To develop outdoor garden to grow and sell produce – It was agreed** to fund £1500 for this grant request.

8.7 Catshill Baptist Church Grant request for White Goods Scheme In principle this was agreed to, but it was felt that Cllr Baker, the Finance Chair should be included in approving or rejecting this grant. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will send a message to Cllr Baker and Cllr Osman as they were both absent from this meeting to seek their approval of paying £5000 for this grant, if no response then it is deemed that the grant has been accepted and will be paid in November’s payment run.

22/10-09 Finance

9.1 The payments and receipts report to 20/10/2022 was received and noted.

The council’s accounts spreadsheet for October 2022 was circulated.

An excerpt from the council’s accounts spreadsheet for October had been sent along with the bank reconciliation to 20/10/2022, it is as follows:

Bank Reconciliation as at 20/10/2022		
Opening Cash Book balance		£105,685.54
Add receipts between 1 April - 20 Oct 2022	53,226.00	
Less payments between 1 April - 20 Oct 2022	-38,524.30	
Cashbook balance at 20 Oct 2022		£120,387.24
Bank statements at 20 Oct 2022		
Unity Trust Bank	128,277.34	
Soldo account	43.91	
Less unpresented cheques, as list below	£7,934.01	
Bank balances at 20 Oct 2022		£120,387.24

9.2 Internal Audit quote for 22/23 - It was agreed to accept Diane Malley’s quote for 22/23 of £180.00

9.3 Summer plants quotation – It was agreed to accept the quote for £1078.31 for next year’s plants which includes polyanthus.

9.4 Winter plants quotation - It was agreed to accept the quote for £504.00 for the Winter planters.

9.5 Hedgehog Highway Project Update – The clerk has received the Hedgehog Highways and relevant leaflets which will be brought to the next meeting when the Junior Councillors attend the meeting

9.6 Lengthsman retirement update, example advert sent to be agreed on – It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, but it was agreed that Clerk contacts Paul Harvey from the Footpaths group who has emailed to say he would be interested in the position and the Parish agreed to use him for any jobs in the interim until a Lengthsman is interviewed and employed.

Items for Discussion

22/10-10

10.1 Remembrance Service Event - Cllr Baker No update

10.2 Recruiting New Councillors report – Cllr Baker Deferred to next meeting

10.3 Project Officer update – Cllr Baker Deferred to next meeting

Committee and Representatives Report

22/10-11

11.1 Finance and Staffing Committee – Nothing to report

11.2 News Magazine – Cllr Masters – Thanked everybody who wrote articles and for helping to deliver the news magazines.

11.3 Village Hall Report – No report received.

11.4 Natural Networks Project and Footpaths Report– Cllr Laniosh is waiting for Cllr Osman to arrange a meeting to progress the Natural Networks Project. Cllr Laniosh updated on all footpaths and gates that have been replaced and cleared in the last month. The next meeting of the group is on 15th November.

Meeting finished @ 21:10

22/10-12

Date and time of next meeting: 01st December 2022 @ 19:00

Excerpt from October Spreadsheet

Oct-22						
Unity Trust Bank	v111	Bank charge, 2nd quarter		18.00	-	18.00
Water Plus	v112	Water Ivy Cottage Gardens		6.75		6.75
Talk Talk	v113	Office phone and broadband Sept 2022		46.95		46.95
Bromsgrove District Council	R6	Second half of 2022/23 precept	26,010.50			-
O2	v114	office mobile		14.74	2.46	12.28
Grenke	v115	Grenke Leasing for Copier		76.97	12.83	64.14
ICO	v116	Data Protection Fee		35.00		35.00
Allen Farnsworth	v117	Lengthsman Sept		250.00		250.00
JRB Enterprise Ltd	v118	Dog waste bags		327.60	54.60	273.00
Meadowfields Ground Maintenance	v119	Maintain shrubs at gardens Sept 2022		237.60	39.60	198.00
CAB Grant	v120	Donation		1,000.00		1,000.00
Hedgehogs R Us	V121	Hedgehog Highway Bundles		157.50		157.50
Shaw Loos	V122	Toilets for Bonfire Event		216.00	36.00	180.00
October Salaries	v123-125	LP salary Oct 2022		923.98	-	923.98
HMRC	v126	PAYE & NI month 4		179.33		179.33
HMRC	v127	PAYE & NI month 5		180.00		180.00
HMRC	v128	PAYE & NI month 6		180.00		180.00
Soldo Card -Microsoft monthly fee	v129	Monthly fee		7.99		7.99
Soldo Card -Zoom monthly fee	v129	Monthly fee		14.39	-	14.39
G-Force Fireworks	V130	Balance for Fireworks event		3,600.00		3,600.00
SLCC	V131	Yearly membership fee		171.00		171.00
Heron Press	V132	Autumn Newsletter		511.00	-	511.00
Worcestershire County Council	R7	Lengthsman Refund Aug 2022	255.00			-
				26,265.50	8,154.80	145.49
				53,226.00	38,524.30	2,423.06
		Total for year to 31/03/2021				8,009.31
						36,101.24